

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 04, 2003***

NAVTEX FORECAST

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The NAVigational TEXt (NAVTEX) Forecast is an alphanumeric product providing information on marine conditions such as: wind, waves, visibility, icing, and significant weather. This product is prepared by the Tropical Prediction Center (TPC), and Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) marine area of responsibility (MAOR). The MAOR extends seaward from the closest buoy from the coast out to approximately 200 nautical miles.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued at least twice per day from nine U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) broadcast sites, and updated when necessary, to describe marine analysis and forecast conditions including any event-driven marine and tropical hazards occurring or expected over the MAOR for a two day forecast period (Note: some offices issue the forecast for a five day period). This product is intended to provide information assisting in the protection of life and property, and enhancing the nations economy.

3. Audience:

The target audience for this product includes: ocean going vessels, barge operators, private maritime organizations, recreational mariners, commercial fishing vessels, and military and government agencies.

4. Presentation Format:

The product is made available in alphanumeric format, and is prepared in a consistent manner by the offices mentioned above.

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page e-mail link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services. Feedback on this product is obtained at Focus Group meetings, Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the NAVTEX may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
Marine Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

NAVTEX is an international automated medium frequency (518 kHz) direct-printing service for delivery of navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts, as well as urgent marine safety information to ships. The NAVTEX product is disseminated in alphanumeric format and contains a narrative synopsis, and descriptive phrases for forecast marine conditions for specified temporal intervals out to the day two forecast period (Note: some offices issue the forecast for a five day period). The product describes significant weather elements and hazardous marine and tropical events including warnings. The product is written in a standard and concise format with all required weather elements.

Coordination, by telephone and the Hurricane Hotline, with adjacent WFOs and the NWS National Centers with marine and tropical responsibility (TPC and OPC) is done by the issuing office to ensure the products are consistent and compatible.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated at least twice per day from nine USCG broadcast sites, and is updated on an unscheduled basis. Additional information on product dissemination is available at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm>.

The following Internet site is one location to access the NAVTEX product:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/forecast.htm#navtex>.

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, areas of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the NAVTEX product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304, and in 10-311, which are made available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.